

July 1972

# Around AA

*Items of AA information and experience*

## **Conference Theme: 'Our Primary Purpose'**

Guided by that theme, Delegates to the 22nd North American General Service Conference joined with their fellow conferees in seeking the group conscience on a number of questions, many having to do with improving communications and other subjects requiring clarification and discussion in light of our Traditions.

Ninety Delegates attended the week-long sessions at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York, N.Y., April 17-22, together with the Trustees of the General Service Board, AAWS and Grapevine directors and staffs, plus a limited number of non-voting observers from some of the Board committees and other people having special assignments at the Conference.

Dr. John L. Norris, nonalcoholic chairman of the General Service Board, in welcoming Delegates, spoke of the Conference "as a sharing of our experience, hope, and strength, and of our concerns. This is your Conference. Those of you who have studied the Third Legacy know how much this was a part of Bill's thinking, part of the Traditions that will keep AA alive and strong. A rewarding part of my experience in AA is to see the group conscience at work and to depend upon it."

Bob McA., chairman of the "Delegates Only" meeting, also greeted the Conference members at the opening session, reminding them that "we have a lot of work cut out for us this week, but it will be an unforgettable experience. To learn and to share, that is why we are here. Let us always be mindful to do what is best, not only for our areas, but for AA as a whole."

Following are some of the conference actions:

New Trustees Elected. Junior A., Massachusetts, from the Northeast region.

U.S.; Jim. G., Nebraska, from the West Central region; Matt N., Alberta, from Western Canada.

**Bill W. Memorial Fund.** Agreed to defer decision on the use of this fund so that the Delegates may discuss with their groups the suggestion of a film about AA, historical or for public-information purposes (such as an accurate documentary suitable for showing on TV), and come back next year prepared to make a decision on this or other suggestions.

**Clubs.** Approved a motion that no club listed, or known as such, whether or not composed solely of AA members, be allowed to contribute to GSO. Individual groups meeting in these clubs could send in funds as long as the contribution is in the name of the group.

**"Family" Groups.** Approved the motion, that "only those with a desire to stop drinking may be members of an AA group. Although nonalcoholics are welcome at open meetings of AA, it is suggested that the word 'family' not be used in the name of an AA group. If AAs and their nonalcoholic mates wish to meet together on a regular basis, it is suggested they consider these gatherings 'meetings' and not AA groups."

**Listing in World Directory.** It was the sense of the meeting that the "family" groups should not be listed under the "family" group name in the directory.

**Naming an AA Group After an Individual.** It was the unanimous opinion of the Delegates that an AA group should not be named after an AA member or nonalcoholic, living or deceased.

**Narcotics, Drugs, and AA.** There was much discussion, during which a show of hands indicated that more than one-half the Delegates are concerned with this problem in their areas. After discussion, it was moved that "GSO prepare a clear-cut statement of what AA is and what it is not."

— Adapted from *Box 4-5-9*